

RUTH'S WISE CHOICE

Sunday School Lesson for Dec. 8, 1907
Specially Arranged for This Paper

LESSON TEXT.—Ruth 1:14-22. Ministry Verses, 14-15.
GOLDEN TEXT.—"Thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God."—Ruth 1:16.

TIME.—Ruth belongs to the times of the Judges, possibly in the time of Gideon, B. C. 1223-1182, or in the early part of the judgeship of Eli, when East Israel was oppressed by Amoritcs, and West Israel by the Philistines (1194). As she was the great grandmother of David, either date is possible. The dates are the common ones in our Bible. Some scholars place David's date considerably later.

PLACE.—The early home of Naomi and the later one of Ruth was at Bethlehem, around which so many interesting events cluster. The early home of Ruth was in Moab, east of the Dead Sea and southern Jordan.

Comment and Suggestive Thought.

The Two Decisions.—The two widowed daughters-in-law, Orpah, the "Fawn," and Ruth, "the Rose of Moab," went part of the way to see Naomi off, as friends and relatives were accustomed to do, and as is still the custom in the east. When the time came to part, when they had kissed each other and wept together, they both declared they would not return, but would go with her to Israel. "Like a wise woman, she declined to take advantage of the impulse of passionate regret, which seemed adverse to their temporal welfare, and which their cooler judgment might not sanction, and urged them, by many strong arguments, to return." "God wrestled with Jacob with desire to be conquered; so Naomi, no doubt, opposed Ruth, hoping and wishing that she herself might be foiled."—T. Fuller. She would have Ruth fully understand her own mind, and realize what the decision would cost her. So in the parable of Christ (Luke 14: 26-33). So Joshua, in his farewell address to his people, when urging them with all his soul to be true to their God, even after their declaration—"God forbid that we should forsake the Lord"—tells them, "Ye cannot serve the Lord" (Josh. 24: 11).

Orpah decides to go back to her people. There was little to attract her to a new and strange home, with poverty in prospect; with little hope that she would be welcome to the exclusive Jews, to whom, as well as to her mother, she might become a burden—nothing to attract her except love and religion. Neither of these did she possess in a degree sufficient to overcome the obstacles in the way. We do not know whether she returned to the worship of idols or whether she, at least in private, clung to the religion and the God she had learned from Naomi.

Ruth, with a deeper nature and clearer insight, with a love to Naomi that would cheer and strengthen her, and a consciousness of her need of God and love to God that made all other blessings as nothing in comparison, clung unto Naomi, and, like Mary, chose the good part which shall not be taken away from her.

V. 15. "And Ruth said." "Ruth's passionate burst of tenderness is immortal. It has put into fitting words for all generations the deepest thoughts of loving hearts, and comes to us over all the centuries between as warm and living as when it welled up from that pure, heroic soul. The two strongest emotions of our nature are blended in it, and each gives a portion of its fervor—love and religion."—MacLaren.

Orpah and Ruth, starting together for the promised land, and one returning to idolatry, while the other goes on to immortal blessedness, are paralleled by the characters in the early part of Bunyan's "Pilgrim's Progress," where Christian and his neighbors start together for the Celestial City. Christian goes on, while Obstinate and Plausible soon return to the City of Destruction. "It might have been" sums up the tragedy of many a life.

Choices between good and evil, even in small things, are the most important acts of our lives. They are the creative acts of the soul. Often these fateful crises come in our lives in connection with decisions of the importance of which we do not dream. We know what is right; we do not know the far-reaching effects.

The Outcome of Ruth's Choice.—So far we have been reading the introduction to Ruth's romantic love story, a companion picture in common life to the picture in Solomon's song portraying the love of a great king.

It is well to have these two pictures in the Bible gallery, because home and holy love are essential conditions of the transforming this world into the kingdom of God. Home and love open the gates to Paradise. The star of Bethlehem for the race stands over the home with Jesus in it.

The greatest reward both of Boaz and of Ruth arises from the fact that they were the ancestors of King David, the greatest of Israel's kings, and of David's greater son, Jesus, the prince of peace.

"Here we have the eternal appreciation of every-day virtue and service in the midst of little, ordinary things, and the divine recognition of these as powers in making the world what God wants it to be. It is meant to teach that in the timeliest breast of timid woman there may reside an energy which affects human life and the destinies of ages more even than clattering arms and clashing armies . . . And Ruth, bringing into Judah only a woman's heart filled with a wonderful love, was able to do more for the land of her exile than its soldiers spending themselves in battle."

AS SHE HAD BEEN ORDERED.

Domestic Cleared Everything Left Over Out of the Ice Box.

There recently entered the service of a Cleveland family a domestic of Scandinavian origin. She had never seen a refrigerator before, and the lady of the house, after initiating her into its mysteries, instructed her never to leave anything old or left over in the ice-box, but to keep the refrigerator perfectly clean and fresh by throwing the old things away each morning.

The very next day the mistress, looking out of the window, observed something peculiar in the yard.

"What is that, Sophie?" she asked.

"And how did it get there?"

"That is old ice, ma'am," was the proud response, "left over from yesterday. I threw it away like you told me."—Harper's Weekly.

SORES AS BIG AS PENNIES.

Whole Head and Neck Covered—Hair All Came Out—Cured in Three Weeks by Cuticura.

"After having the measles my whole head and neck were covered with scaly sores about as large as a penny. They were just as thick as they could be. My hair all came out. I let the trouble run along, taking the doctor's blood remedies and rubbing on salve, but it did not seem to get any better. It stayed that way for about six months; then I got a set of the Cuticura Remedies, and in about a week I noticed a big difference, and in three weeks it was well entirely and I have not had the trouble any more, and as this was seven years ago, I consider myself cured. Mrs. Henry Porter, Albion, Neb., Aug. 25, 1906."

A Real Schemer.

For six months she had been pleading with him to buy an automobile.

"They are too expensive," he protested for the hundredth time. "If I bought an automobile I would have to cut down our expenses."

"What expenses?" she asked.

"Why, table expenses. For instance, if I had an automobile I couldn't afford to have chicken every Sunday."

She laughed.

"Why, you goose! If you had an automobile you could run down enough fowls to have chicken every day, to say nothing of big turkeys and nice roasting pigs. Why is it men haven't any brains?"

And the next day he hustled around to the nearest dealer and ordered a racing machine.

One Waiter with Sense.

Man in a restaurant, happening in just as a new shift of waiters came on. And having eaten a very modest luncheon this man laid down a modest tip, to be exact, five cents.

And did the waiter shy off or sniff at this nickel? He did neither, but on the contrary he seemed to regard it as an augury of good fortune that his first customer should have given him something, and—

"Thank you," he said, politely, to the customer, and as he turned away he added to himself: "That's a starter."—N. Y. Sun.

Autos in Prester John's Country.

Even in remote Abyssinia the day of the automobile has arrived, and Germany has seized occasion by the forelock. The Negus has granted to a German company a concession for an automobile line connecting Addis Ababa and Diredda, which are six days' journey by ordinary caravan. The motors will cover the distance in two.—London Globe.

Experience.

"Experience is the best teacher," remarked the man who indulges in trite sayings.

"Yes," answered the skeptic; "but occasionally, as in distinguishing between mushrooms and toadstools, your education comes too late to be of any service."

The Reason of It.

"Why has that particular actress more clappers than any other in the play?"

"Because she is a society belle."

BEGAN YOUNG.

Had "Coffee Nerves" from Youth.

"When very young I began using coffee and continued up to the past six months," writes a Texas girl.

"I had been exceedingly nervous, thin and very yellow. After quitting coffee and drinking Postum Food Coffee about a month my nervousness disappeared and has never returned. This is the more remarkable as I am a primary teacher and have kept right on with my work."

"My complexion now is clear and rosy, my skin soft and smooth. As a good complexion was something I had greatly desired, I feel amply repaid even tho this were the only benefit derived from drinking Postum."

"Before beginning its use I had suffered greatly from indigestion and headache; these troubles are now unknown."

"Best of all, I changed from coffee to Postum without the slightest inconvenience, did not even have a headache. Have known coffee drinkers who were visiting me, to use Postum a week without being aware that they were not drinking coffee."

"I have known several to begin the use of Postum and drop it because they did not boil it properly. After explaining how it should be prepared they have tried it again and pronounced it delicious."

Name given by Postum Co., Battle Creek, Mich. Read the booklet, "The Road to Wellville," in pkgs. "There's a Reason."

PURE FOOD ASSURED

The National Pure Food Law has stopped the sale of all impure food products. No more need for worry on that score! It's now a question of efficiency and good value for your money.



K.C. BAKING POWDER

for years has stood every test for purity and wholesomeness.

Its superior quality shows in the delicious cakes and biscuit that K.C. is guaranteed to make.

The price is a saving of over half your baking powder money—

25 ounces for 25 cents.

If you have never tried K.C., do so now under the following guarantee:

Your Grocer will sell you a can of K.C. on trial. Use it for your favorite cake. It will be lighter, tastier, more delicate,—or we pay him for the can. It will open your eyes. Try it quick. Don't delay. You are missing much.

JAQUES MANUFACTURING COMPANY, Chicago.

Caught Whiskers in Safe.

In locking his safe the other night prior to his going home for supper George Edgemont, a paperhanger who lives at Jefferson street and Hermitage lane, Manayunk, shut the safe door upon his flowing whiskers and was held until released by his daughter, says the Philadelphia Inquirer.

Edgemont had been out collecting bills during the day. Returning to his office he opened his safe and placed the money in it. He then threw the door shut, catching the end of his beard in the door. In the excitement incident to his odd predicament he forgot the combination and so could not release himself. With his chin resting on the safe he was discovered about an hour after the accident by his daughter, who came to find what had delayed him. The safe was broken open by a locksmith.

Not All There.

Bleeker—Your wife seems to have a mind of her own.

Meeker—She did have before our marriage, but she hasn't any more.

Bleeker—What's the answer?

Meeker—She has given me several pieces of it since we faced the parson together.

Starch, like everything else, is being constantly improved, the patent Starches put on the market 25 years ago are very different and inferior to those of the present day. In the latest discovery—Defiance Starch—all injurious chemicals are omitted, while the addition of another ingredient, invented by us, gives to the Starch a strength and smoothness never approached by other brands.

Niagara Falls as a power generating plant is worth \$40,000,000 a year.

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\$3.00 SHOES AT ALL PRICES, FOR EVERY MEMBER OF THE FAMILY. MEN, BOYS, WOMEN, MISSES AND CHILDREN.

W. L. Douglas makes and sells more men's \$2.50, \$3.00 and \$3.50 shoes than any other manufacturer in the world, because they hold their shape, fit better, wear longer, and are of greater value than any other shoes in the world to-day.

W. L. Douglas \$4 and \$5 Oilt Edge Shoes cannot be equalled at any price. DEFENSE STARCH. — 16 ounces in the package — other starches only 13 ounces—same price and "DEFIANCE" IS SUPERIOR QUALITY.



LIVE STOCK AND MISCELLANEOUS ELECTROTYPES. In great variety for sale at the lowest prices by WESTERN NEWSPAPER UNION, Kansas City, Missouri.

W. N. U., MUSKOGEE, NO. 49, 1907.

First Thing I Do

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"When I feel bad," writes Mrs. R. H. Cox, of Jasper, Ala., "the first thing I do is to take a dose of Cardui, and it relieves. What a wonderful medicine Cardui is! I wish I could put it into every home in the world. When any woman is at my house, and complains, I just give her a dose of

Wine of Cardui

"I am glad to tell other women what it has done for me. Before I began to take Cardui I was very sick with female troubles. The doctors said I needed an operation, but I took Cardui, which cured me sound and well." Sold everywhere. Try it.

WRITE FOR FREE BOOK

Write for Free 64-page Book for Women, giving symptoms, causes, home treatment and valuable hints on diet, exercise, etc. Sent free on request in plain wrapper, by mail prepaid. Ladies' Advisory Dept., The Chattanooga Medicine Co., Chattanooga, Tenn.

A Frank Advertiser.

The new commercial morality has spread to Ceylon. From one of the newspapers of that balmy island we take the following:

"CH. A. HORSE—Rising seven, fine mouth and paces, about 15 hands; fine Lady's Hack; shows a lot of breeding; Reason for selling, bad with motors; won't go in harness; jibs when leaving stables; catches rider by seat of breeches when mounting; but a darling pet. Apply, &c."—London Daily Mail.

Might Have Been.

When Shakespeare said: "Aye, there's the rub," we do not know for certain he was thinking of the itch. But one thing we do know—and know it twenty years' worth—Hunt's Cure will absolutely, infallibly and immediately cure any itching trouble that ever happened to the human cuticle. It's guaranteed.

Japanese Men Outnumber Women.

Japan is one of the few countries where the men outnumber the women. The ratio there is 980 to 1,000.

PILES CURED IN 5 TO 14 DAYS.

PAZO OINTMENT is guaranteed to cure any case of itching, hums, bleeding or protruding Piles in 5 to 14 days or money refunded. See.

The statesman leads the masses. The masses lead the politician.

At the County Fair.

"Doing a land-office business, eh?" remarked the man from the city. "What is that you are selling, anyway?"

"Blessed if I know myself, boss," whispered the fakir at the county fair; "it has zigzag lines all over it and when a woman comes up I sell it to her as a skirt pattern and when a man comes up I sell it to him as a guaranteed and genuine map of Mars."

Certainly Fair.

Of all troubles humanity is subject to none perhaps causes more acute distress and more frantic efforts for relief than many forms of itching skin troubles. We will tell you a remedy that rarely ever fails—Hunt's Cure. One box is absolutely guaranteed to cure any one case of itching trouble—no matter what the name. If it fails, your money is cheerfully refunded.

World's Gold Production.

Africa leads in the matter of gold production and the United States is second.

IF YOU USE HALL BLUE.

Get Red Cross Ball Blue, the best Ball Blue. Large 2 oz. package only 5 cents.

The Bank of England employs 1,000 persons.

Don't Take Any Chances

Go Where Living is a Pleasure, Labor is Light and a Good Income Assured.

Buy a Truck Farm on the Famous Simmons Ranch, from 10 to 640 Acres and Two Town Lots for \$210.

Dr. J. S. Christian, the well known Physician of Lindale, Texas, is writing Mr. T. J. Burrow, of Troupe, Texas, says:

Mr. T. J. Burrow, Troupe, Texas. Dear Sir:—Yours of even date received, and in reply will say that I have just returned from a trip to San Antonio, and the Dr. Simmons ranch, where I spent four days riding over the property, and I must say that Dr. Simmons in his prospectus has not misrepresented or overdrawn anything. I not only found everything as good as represented, but really the half has not been told.

The railroad question is no longer an uncertainty, and the land is as rich as can be found in the state. I have investigated every phase of the Simmons proposition, and I am willing to say that his proposition is perfectly fair, honorable and legal, and the property is now worth more than the price asked for it, but in not more than two years cannot be bought for four times the price he offers to take.

With regards, I beg to remain,

Yours very truly, J. S. CHRISTIAN, M. D.

Investigate this before it is too late. Land is selling fast and will soon be gone.

Write today for literature fully describing the ranch and pictures showing views on same.

DR. CHAS. F. SIMMONS,

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You Look Prematurely Old

Because of those ugly, grizzly, gray hairs. Use "LA CREOLE" HAIR RESTORER. PRICE, \$1.00, retail.